

## Continuity of Operation Planning / Continuity of Government Newsletter

Edition No. 14 September 2008

This newsletter is developed to inform employees of the State of Colorado on the efforts being performed to ensure the recovery of critical functions and the safety of employees in the face of man-made, or natural disaster.

### Introduction

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the COOP/COG newsletter. This newsletter is intended to keep employees informed about this important effort which could affect us all as employees and also residents of Colorado. This newsletter will be produced on a regular basis to show the progress being made and benefits to citizens, employees, and State government itself. Feel free to ask questions and provide feedback as this is a collaborative effort that affects everyone.

### DNC Wrap up

By now you should be coming down from the excitement, or stress, from the DNC. A much lower than predicted number of protestors helped keep the City running smoothly, albeit crowded, and the Police presence also kept protestors safe. Following are some reported items of interest from the DNC and how this relates to the mitigation and recovery efforts we are involved in.

#### *Verizon reported high cell phone usage*

*Verizon Wireless says its customers completed nearly 10 million more calls and data transmissions than normal during the Democratic National Convention Aug. 25-28. On Aug. 28, when Barack Obama accepted his party's presidential nomination at Invesco Field at Mile High, customers completed nearly 200,000 voice, messaging and data connections per hour. Verizon Wireless says that's a 16-fold increase in wireless calls, text messages, picture and video messages, Internet connections and other wireless traffic on cell sites serving the area from a typical weeknight. Courtesy of CBS4Denver.com.*

While people talk about the increase in cell phone usage during an incident, this is an example of what a large number of people and a significant event can do for cell phone usage. There was no mention of call blocking here and Verizon did install additional equipment for the event in anticipation of call blocking.

#### *Rocks, Bricks Found During DNC*

*Denver police say they found rocks, bricks and sticks stashed around the city during the Democratic National Convention that may have been placed there by people planning violence. Courtesy of CBS4Denver.com.*

While the events of the past week were extraordinary, it is worthwhile noting for the future that protestors look for and store projectiles in preparation for protests. The removal of trash cans, newspaper stands, loose landscaping materials, etc does have a limiting effect on the tools that protestors attempt to use as does awareness of this tactic and stepped up vigilance of hidden areas that may be used to store projectiles.

## **Flu Season**

I just saw my first email about Flu Shots being offered. It is also a good time to talk about and promote cough etiquette amongst your co-workers:-

- Cover the nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing;
- Use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle after use;
- Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic hand wash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials

## **For more information**

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